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USDA Agency Establishes Leadership Award in Honor of Scranton Native

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26, 2013 - The United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) established a permanent annual memorial award in honor of Scranton native Jack Nealon, who passed away in 2012 following a courageous battle with cancer.

"Jack was a true visionary and an exceptional leader in technology transformation in NASS," said NASS Administrator Dr. Cynthia Clark. "Many of our agency's successes can be directly attributed to his remarkable direction and leadership."

The Jack Nealon Leadership Award, which NASS established in 2013, recognizes exceptional leadership and dedication to public service. NASS' Joseph Kosler posthumously became the first recipient of the award at a ceremony held on December 12 in Washington, D.C. Kosler's passion and talent for statistics, information technology, and communication were always evident and greatly helped advanced projects across NASS.

Nealon was a graduate of Scranton Preparatory School. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at the University of Scranton and a master's degree in statistics at North Carolina State. He began his federal career with the Department of Agriculture in 1974 and retired in December 2011 after serving as Director of the Information Technology Division, Chief Information Officer, and Senior Project Manager. In 2010, he received the Presidential Rank Award from President Barack Obama, who conferred upon Nealon the rank of meritorious executive in the Senior Executive Service.

"Jack left a legacy at NASS and he will always be remembered by all of his colleagues," added Clark.

Jack is survived by his wife Trista and son Jack, Jr.

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